(b) whether the present target for production and sale is more than the target set for the last year; and

(c) if so, what is the difference between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The targets set for Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) for production and sale of salesble steel during 1999-2000 were 3.27 MT and 3.64 MT respectively. 2.95 MT and 0.42 MT of steel were sold in the domestic and foreign markets respectively during the last financial year;

(b) Target set for the present year is more in case of production of saleable steel and less in case of sales.

(c) The difference an the targets for production and sale between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are (+) 2,30,000 tonnes for production and (-) 2,72,000 tonnes for sales.

Privatisation of Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company

3180. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to privatise Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company in Bhadravathi, Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that has been approved by the Government includes, *inter-alia,* initiation of the process of formation of a joint venture for Visveswaraiah Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) while protecting the jobs of existing employees.

Poor Tribals Joining PWG in A.P.

3181. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty is forcing the poor tribals of certain areas like Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh to join People's War Group; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to assist the tribals to get the benefit of all Government sponsored schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) and (b) Naxalism in Nizamabad is mainly Socio-Economic based Law and Order problem involving different sections of society and not only the tribals.